

that is smaller, more efficient and friendlier to the American people.

SUPPORT THE MINIMUM WAGE WITH THE MINIMUM TRUTH

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in the last few days I have gotten a tremendous number of calls from people concerned about what might happen to the minimum wage. One of the reasons why much of that concern is coming is because I represent a district right next to one of our leaders here, Mr. ARMEY, who has been talking about doing away with the minimum wage altogether and talks about Charlie, who lost his job because of an increase in the minimum wage back in 1977.

Well, they tell me that is not true, and I saw in the Washington Post yesterday that it was proven that was not a true story.

I simply ask, Mr. Speaker, that when our leaders get up to attempt to talk about why they want certain policies, they should just tell the truth. No one has lost a job because of an increase in the minimum wage.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all of us to look very closely at what we pledge when we say, "with liberty and justice for all." Our working poor have to be considered. We cannot expect that all of us will know how to make decisions if we do not have at least a minimum truth in our support of the minimum wage.

THE SPEAKER TARGETED IN POLITICAL INVESTIGATION, SAYS THE MIAMI HERALD

(Mr. LAHOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I have an article here that appeared in the Miami Herald on February 21 that says they will find some dirt on GINGRICH, and one of our colleagues is quoted as saying that people have been assigned by House Democrats to "investigate Gingrich on a daily basis," and "we are going to stay on his back."

I really doubt if the American people sent our colleagues here to try and downgrade or to try and develop some sort of a list of how we can do in a particular Member of this House. I think the American people sent us here to do the people's business and to pass legislation and work together.

THE PEOPLE SEEK ANSWERS

(Mrs. KENNELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, 50 days into the Contract With America and there seem to be more questions than answers.

I want to know, how do we protect public safety and at the same time say we do not need more police on the streets, especially in our urban centers that have such problems?

How do we prepare the next generation to work in a more complicated, competitive world and say, "Oh, no, we don't need student loans anymore, and if we have them, they are going to be harder to pay for"?

How do we stand up for the average working person and at the same time say, "Let's have a tax cut" that is so big we could not pay for it unless we increased the deficit or at least broke our promise to our older Americans and decimated Medicare?

And, finally, how do we protect the Constitution of the United States and pass legislation that totally disregards the privacy of each and every one of our homes?

As we move into the second 50 days, these questions are going to have to be answered, and I am sure there will be other questions. My only hope is that as the American people see what is in this contract, they will not wish that they had negotiated an escape clause for their own protection.

FARM ISSUES DESERVE MORE ATTENTION

(Mr. CHAMBLISS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, farmers deserve a break from the burdensome and bureaucratic regulations which dictate how agribusiness is run. Last night after much deliberation we passed a permanent tax break to help cover the cost of health insurance for farmers and other small businessmen. This is only one step toward relieving the farmer's burden—we must do much more.

Congress needs to re-implement the investment tax credit so farmers will have an incentive to expand their operations. We need to pass legislation that will ease the burden of private property takings. We need to pass a capital gains tax reduction which will allow farmers to invest in further improvements on their farm. The farmers should be able to leave their farms to

WHO HAS BENEFITED BY THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA?

(Mrs. CLAYTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on the last day of this Congress, I stated, At the end of each day, I believe it is important to be honest and to ask the question:

Who was helped—and who was hurt—by what we did?

We are now at the 50th day.

Who have we helped?

Mr. Speaker, on day one, I also stated, This Nation is strong because we have historically made a place for all who live here, including those who are weak—the young, the poor, the frail, the disabled.

Soon we will consider welfare reform legislation. The future of Federal nutrition programs hangs in the balance under that proposed bill.

We have another 50 days left on the 100-day promise to change America.

Who are we helping? Who are we hurting?

We have not helped the seniors. With the balanced budget amendment, Social Security and Medicare will likely be cut?

We have not helped workers. The unfunded mandates bill leaves workers protections at risk.

We have not helped our youth. The crime bill would jail them rather than deter them.

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY AND THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMOSKEAG VETERANS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

(Mr. BASS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, today is George Washington's birthday and that is certainly an important event, but it is also the annual meeting of the Amoskeag Veterans.

The Amoskeag Veterans is perhaps New Hampshire's oldest standing militia, maybe one of the oldest in the country. The Amoskeag Veterans meet twice a year, on George Washington's birthday and on Bunker Hill Day. They are indeed a regiment of 72 American citizens who are battle-ready.

As we discuss the defense supplemental today, I hope the people of this country and my colleagues here in Congress will be advised that this group has been around for over 200 years. It

minute.)

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 50th day of the Republican contract for America. They like to boast and they punchout with a hole puncher each contract item. Let us look at what they have punched out so far.

They have punched out police on the beat, the 100,000 police officers that this Congress provided last year. They punched out open rules by closing them to honest debate.

They have punched out taxpayers with \$40 billion for a new star wars.

Who gets punched out in the next 50 days? Well, they are going to punch out tax cuts for the wealthy. That will really help a lot. They are going to punch out senior citizens by the cuts that have to come under the balanced budget amendment. They are going to punch out veterans. They are going to punch out middle income families when they restrict student loans.

They are going to punch out kids—that is gutsy—with student nutrition cutbacks, with cutbacks on hot lunches and breakfasts.

Mr. Speaker, one would think that George Foreman had run for the Congress. But the fact is that we should not be here punching people out. Each punchout they do is a knockout to the American economy.

RECOUNTING THE SUCCESSES AT THE HALFWAY POINT OF THE CONTRACT

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute, and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, as I listen to my friend talking about punching out certain interests in this country, I am struck by the fact that he fails to recognize the tremendous success of the first 50 of the 100 days.

We have had the most open debate process that this institution has witnessed in years. With the crime bill that we passed, we are going to allow local governments to make the determination as to how they can best deal with the crime problem, and if they want to put 100,000 police officers on the street, I am convinced that if that number is actually right, which I certainly question, this measure that we passed will be able to do that.

The fact is that we have had tremendous success during these first 50 days of the 100 days, and as we mark George Washington's birthday, it is pathetic, absolutely pathetic, that one of our colleagues has to do what the Democrats have unfortunately resorted to

Mr. Speaker, that is pathetic. It is absolutely pathetic that all they are doing is resorting to digging up dirt.

DEMOCRATS BEING GAGGED BY REPUBLICANS

(Mr. VOLKMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, yes, this is the 50th day. But we got a long way to go. You know, this Congress will be in session for about another year and 10 months, so let us see what happens in that year and 10 months.

What has happened in the first 50 days is not very much. When you add it up, there has only been one bill that has been passed and become law, and that same bill is a bill that we as Democrats passed last year and everybody agreed to, and that is the compliance bill.

Nothing else has become law. The balanced budget amendment? That is still sitting over in the Senate. They are going to vote on it next week. They do not even know if they are going to pass it or not. Nothing else is moving. Nothing else has become law.

Folks, they say that great things are happening. Well, what have been the great things happening? We have been gagged. Many of us have amendments to bills. We cannot offer them. They will not let us offer them. They have a timetable. They say, "We have to do it now, right now; you cannot offer your amendment. It is going to happen today."

I wish more people would watch what happens here today and see how Democratic minority Members are gagged by the rules of the majority today, tomorrow, Friday, all next week, and all through this 50 days.

IMPRESSIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OVER LAST 50 DAYS

(Mr. DIAZ-BALART asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, today we properly focus upon how much we have accomplished in just 50 days. The list is impressive: A balanced budget amendment, a line-item veto, a tough and commonsense crime bill, unfunded Federal mandates reform, and setting priorities for America's foreign policy and national defense.

Now, Americans may ask how will this affect me? Let me answer. A balanced budget amendment means your children and grandchildren will have a

eral mandate reform means you will no longer have to pay the hidden taxes from the Federal Government passing down mandates to State and local governments. Setting national security priorities ensures that America will maintain its strong leadership in the world in future generations.

Mr. Speaker, we are making real changes, changes that will help the American people, and we will continue.

CONTRACT WITH AMERICA A CAMPAIGN GIMMICK

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I came here to serve the families of the people of Austin, TX, not to serve as a contractor for NEWT GINGRICH. This contract is nothing more than a campaign gimmick, and if it is fully imposed, it will be the people of Austin, TX, and across this country who suffer.

The contract rejects community policing and crime prevention programs that work in Texas. It would turn over our health and safety standards to the tobacco companies and the other special interests. And the cost of this contract? At more than \$1 trillion, it threatens our financial security.

Some of the concepts in the contract are good, but I learned long before going to law school from my parents that you do not listen to the salesperson's hype, you read the fine print, the little bitty words on the back of the contract. And when you do that, you find out that this so-called Contract With America is devastating to middle-class families across this country.

This contract goes too far, too fast, too extreme. It can and should be rejected.

PROMISES MADE ARE PROMISES KEPT

(Mr. RIGGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate the midway point in the Contract With America. Only 50 days into this historical 104th Congress, Republicans have said no to business as usual in Washington. We have already passed a balanced budget amendment, a line-item veto, and have brought Congress under the same laws as the rest of the